

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Erin Oftellie

(515) 281-0367

mlkessaycontestia@gmail.com

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest Winners to be Awarded

(Des Moines, IA) – The Iowa Department on Human Rights' Office on the Status of African Americans, in collaboration with the State of Iowa MLK Day Planning Committee, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service hosted its second annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. statewide essay contest in honor of MLK Day of Service 2010.

More than three hundred Iowa students, grades second through twelve, submitted essays with civic engagement and civil rights themes in order to promote volunteerism. Elementary and middle school students were asked to address what they feel it means to make a difference, who their role models are and how he or she has inspired them to reach out to others. High school students were asked to either write a modern day speech from the perspective of a nonviolent, Civil Rights movement leader, or to explain why they believe in civic engagement and volunteerism.

The nine winners were awarded Monday morning at the state MLK Day celebration held at the State Historical Building on 600 E. Locust in Des Moines. The prizes included cash awards, a civil rights themed book and a personal journal.

Winners:

Second through Fifth Grade:

1st Place Anna Forbes – fourth grade

2nd Place Ava Vaske – second grade

3rd Place David Lopez-Sanders – fifth grade

Sixth through Eighth Grade:

1st Place Elizabeth Reed – eighth grade

2nd Place Rebekah Bass – sixth grade

3rd Place Jamie Liu – seventh grade

Freshman through Seniors:

1st Place Melissa Ketcham – senior

2nd Place Jeff Critchlow – eleventh grade

3rd Place Allison Hesse – ninth grade

Special thanks to the MLK Essay Contest sponsors: Borders Books and Capitol View Credit Union. For questions about the Iowa Martin Luther King Celebration, please contact Kim Cheeks at (515) 281-3274 or kim.cheeks@iowa.gov or Erin Oftellie at (515) 281-0367 or mlkessaycontestia@gmail.com.

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